

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08

ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 /126 W

-----071849Z 102949 /45

R 071222Z APR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6482

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2653

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, APRIL 6, 1977

1. SUMMARY: WESTERN GROUP MET MORNING, APRIL 6 AND DISCUSSED CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY US/USSR BILATERALS AND UK DRAFT, AND PROPOSAL BY CO-CHAIRMEN ON CCD PROCEDURES. US MADE GENERAL COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF CW BILATERALS TO DATE. CANADA PROPOSED APRIL 28 MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS ON SEABED REVIEW CONFERENCE (SEPTEL). END SUMMARY

2. WESTERN GROUP HELD REGULAR MEETING MORNING, APRIL 6 WITH NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAAUW) IN CHAIR. US REP (MEYERS) GAVE BRIEF SUMMARY OF US/USSR BILATERALS ON CW SAYING TONE WAS GOOD AND LISTING ISSUES ADDRESSED THUS FAR.
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US EXPERT (PHELPS) SAID SOVIETS WERE STICKING TO VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL MEANS BUT THAT AS REGARDS SCOPE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED THAT FUTURE CW DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE COFERED BY A CW CONVENTION AND THAT INCAPACITANTS SHOULD BE BANNED. HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US PRESENTATION ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (CBMS) AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET COMMENTED ON US DEL

PRESENTATION ON FORM OF JOINT INITIATIVE. US EXPERT SAID WE HOPED TO CONCLUDE TALKS BY AFTERNOON, APRIL 6, AND THAT COMMUNIQUE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY TUESDAY, APRIL 12.

3. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY THAT US AND USSR DELS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A JOINT PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF THE UNYIELDING STAND THE SOVIETS WERE TAKING ON NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION. US REP SAID US IS APPROACHING JOINT INITIATIVE WITH A VIEW TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON SET OF PRINCIPLES OR KEY ELEMENTS RATHER THAN TRYING TO FORMULATE A DRAFT TEXT TO PUT FORWARD AT CCD. HE SAID USG BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE BEST APPROACH AND WOULD AVOID RECURRENCE OF NEGATIVE REACTION ON THE PART OF SOME WHICH ACCOMPANIED APPROACH USED WITH ENMOD. US REP SAID USSR DEL HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO OUR PRESENTATION AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO OUR APPROACH INITIALLY BUT MAKE IT CONDITIONAL ON RESOLVING VERIFICATION DIFFERENCES.

4. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED IF USDEL HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED A SET OF PRINCIPLES TO USSR DEL AND, IF SO, WOULD THESE PRINCIPLES BE SUBMITTED TO CCD DURING SUMMER SESSION. US REP SAID WASHINGTON NEITHER EXCLUDES NOR COMMITS ITSELF TO FURTHER BILATERAL MEETINGS BEFORE THE SUMMER SESSION.

5. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED IF SOVIETS HAD GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT OTHER THAN NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. US EXPERT (PHELPS) SAID THEY HAD NOT, BUT THAT WAS NOT SURPRISING
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AT THIS STAGE.

6. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID HE COULD SEE "VAST DIFFERENCES" OVER VERIFICATION REMAINED, BUT WONDERED IF US AND USSR WERE "CLOSE" ON SCOPE. US EXPERT RESPONDED HE COULD NOT SAY FORMAL POSITIONS WERE CLOSE. BU THAT ID DID NOT APPEAR SCOPE WOULD, IN THE END, BE A PROBLEM. SCHLAICH RELATED LIKHACHEV COMMENT THAT "SOME" HAD FORMED OPINION AT END OF CW EXPERTS MEETING THAT PROSPECT FOR CW NEGOTIATIONS DURING SUMMER SESSION WERE "WEAKER" AND ASKED IF US DEL THOUGHT THIS TO BE CASE. US REP SAID HE THOUGHT FURTHER BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE MEETINGS. FRG REP SAID THIS SHOWED US "REDINESS TO MEET BUT NOT TO MOVE" US REP SAID WE COULD NOT MOVE UNTIL POLICY REVIEW COMPLETED.

7. JAPANESE REP INITIATED DISCUSSION OF UK DRAFT AND ASKED IF UK DEL WOULD HAVE REVISED DRAFT, TAKING ALL COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT, READY BY SUMMER SESSION. UK REP (ASHE) SAID

THAT THIS WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME MIGHT BE AT THIS POINT. FRG REP MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF HAVEING SECRETARIAT COMPILE A COMPARATIVE TABLEAU, USING UK, JAPANESE AND SOVIET ADRAFTS, WHICH SOULC FACILITATE CCD'S WORK. ITALIAN REP SAID IDEA WAS INTERESTING BUT HE FELT THAT TABLEAU MIGHT DIMINISH FOCUS ON UK DRAFT. UK REF IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND SAID HE FELT IT WOULD BE BEST IF UK DEL MAKES REVISIONS ITSELF AND PERHAPS EVEN TRIES ITS HAND AT DRAFTING ANNEX TO ARTICLE I. CANADIAN ALTERNATE REP (SIMARD) AGREED WITH ITALY AND UK AND SAID HE FELT UK SHOULD REVISE DRAFT ON BASIS OF COMMENTS TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO CCD. NETHERLANDS REP THOUGHT BETTER APPROACH FOR SUMMER SESSION WOULD BE TO TRY IN CCD TO WORK OUT AGREED PRINCIPLES, RATHER THAN REVISED UK TREATY TEXT. IN HIS VIEW, UK DRAFT NOT LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND PERHAPS OTHERS AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. SIMARD REP RESPONDED THAT HEVING SOME AGREED TREATY ARTICLE WOULD BE BETTER THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVING LIST OF PRINCIPLES. IN ANY CASE HE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT PRINCIPLES COULD BE FULLY AGREED BY FALL. EXCHANGE CONCLUDED BY NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTION THAT UK DEL WAIT TO SEE ABOUT PROGRESS OF JOINT INITIATIVE BEFORE SETTING ABOUT REVISION OF THEIR DRAFT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2653

8. US REP SAID CO-CHAIRMAN'S PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL MAY BE
PRESENTED AT APRIL 7 PLENARY IF MEXICO AGREES.

9. ITALIAN REP ONCE AGAIN RAISED AD HOC CW WORKING GROUP
ISSUE AND ASKED WHO WOULD DECIDE THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO SET
UP WORKING GROUP. US REP REPLIED THAT THE CCD WOULD
DECIDE.

10 CANADIAN ALTERNATE REP MADE BRIEF PROPOSAL CONCERNING
APRIL 28 MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS ON
SEABEDS REVIEW CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL).

11. NEXT MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14.
AFTER PLENARY MEETING.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

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